

PRESS RELEASE

DEMONSTRATION and Sit-In by Pesticide Poisoning Victims

When: This Friday, October 19, 1 p.m. demonstration, 2 p.m. sit-in

Where: Environmental Protection Agency Portland Office
811 SW 6th Ave, 3rd Floor, near corner of SW 6th and Yamhill
(Near Washington Mutual)

What: A group of Pesticide Poisoning Victims and their supporters will demonstrate outside the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) office in Portland to protest the recent **VERY CONTROVERSIAL** (see attached news article and Register Guard Editorial) decision to approve an especially toxic pesticide despite vigorous objections of scientists who say it is extremely carcinogenic. **Fifty scientists INCLUDING FIVE NOBEL LAUREATES IN CHEMISTRY** wrote a scathing letter to the EPA demanding that this pesticide (**Methyl Iodide**) not be approved. Read the next paragraph for the most scandalous aspect of this story!

SCANDELOUS DECISION BY EPA

The decision is not only controversial but also scandalous due to the fact that the current head of the Environmental Protection Agency for the Pacific Northwest region **IS THE FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE PESTICIDE COMPANY (Arysta) THAT MAKES THIS PESTICIDE!** (talk about the fox guarding the hen-house!) Her name is Elin Miller, and, prior to running Arysta, she was an executive at Dow Chemical.

How did a pesticide CEO become the head of the EPA for the northwest? She was appointed by the current national head of the EPA, her longtime friend Stephen Johnson, who also has ties to the pesticide industry. Prior to his appointment by George W. Bush to head the EPA, Johnson was an executive of Hazelton Laboratories, which is considered a front group for the Tobacco and Pesticide industries (they do the 'scientific' tests that show that cigarettes are not so bad for you; they also do studies on behalf of the pesticide industry that are considered bogus by mainstream science). Prior to his work at Hazelton, Johnson worked for Litton Industries, once listed as the sixth largest maker of chemical and germ warfare agents. It was his decision to over-ride the fifty scientists, and it was he who appointed Elin Miller to head the northwest region for the EPA.

WHO WE ARE: We are a group of Pesticide Poisoning Victims who are so outraged by this scandalous approval of Methyl Iodide (the letter from the fifty scientists noted that Methyl Iodide is particularly dangerous to humans because of its ability, even in minute doses, to mutate DNA) that we are taking the following actions:

1) The Demonstration: We will demonstrate outside the Portland EPA office at 1 p.m.. Pesticide Poisoning Victims including Day and Neila Owen will speak and answer questions. (Day and Neila were recently poisoned by Timber Industry pesticides sprayed by helicopter near their home.)

2) The Sit-In: At 2 p.m., some of the demonstrators will enter the 3rd floor office of the EPA and deliver a list of demands that will include: **1) The resignation of both Elin Miller and Stephen Johnson from the EPA; 2) The reversal of the EPA decision on Methyl Iodide; 3) Establishment of a legal buffer zone on how close the Timber Industry and Agriculture can spray pesticides to neighboring homes and schools.** (For example, right now a Timber Industry helicopter can spray carcinogenic herbicides right up to your property line, even if your child's bedroom window is a few feet away, even though studies show that the poisons often drift more than a mile! Likewise with commercial farm operations that border schools and bedrooms: There currently is no legal buffer zone!)

**Available to answer questions from the Media: Day
Owen, (541) 927-3017**

Forwarded on by . . .

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